

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

87<sup>th</sup> SESSION  
2019-2020

**S. B. RES. 87-  
A BINDING RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS

---

MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

SUBMITTED BY SENATOR HASSEN, SENATOR HARVEY,  
SENATOR DOYLE, SENATOR ROGERS, AND SENATOR KOMANDURI  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

---

**A Binding Resolution to Establish a  
Standing Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

1       *Whereas*, Rule IX of the 87th Session Rules of the Senate enumerates the standing  
2 committees of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada to consist of the  
3 following: Academics, Budget and Finance, Civic Engagement, Government Operations,  
4 Public Affairs, University Affairs, and Oversight;<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 87<sup>th</sup> Session Rules of the Senate: <http://de5u0yfu98nbk.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/30183501/87SenateRules.pdf>. p. 18.

1           *Whereas*, despite the establishment of the Director of Diversity and Inclusion and the  
2 Department of Diversity and Inclusion in the 83rd and 85th sessions, respectively, the  
3 Associated Students of the University of Nevada have yet to establish a legislative body  
4 charged with prioritizing matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion;

5           *Whereas*, according to the Campus Climate survey, “Twenty-one percent ( $n = 1,357$ )  
6 of respondents indicated that they personally had experienced exclusionary (e.g., shunned,  
7 ignored), intimidating, offensive, and hostile (bullied, harassed) conduct that had interfered  
8 with their ability to learn, live, or work at the University within the past year”;<sup>2</sup>

9           *Whereas*, of the aforementioned percentage, the top four bases of exclusionary,  
10 intimidating, offensive, and hostile conduct were position status (30%), gender and gender  
11 identity (21%), age (18%), and ethnicity (18%);<sup>3</sup>

12           *Whereas*, thirty-six percent (36%) of undergraduate respondents in the campus  
13 climate survey have seriously considered leaving the university, with thirty-six percent (36%)  
14 of Queer-spectrum undergraduate students, thirty-seven percent (37%) of Black/African-  
15 American undergraduate students, and forty-six percent (46%) of undergraduate students  
16 with disabilities, disproportionately reporting to have seriously considered leaving the  
17 institution;<sup>4</sup>

18           *Whereas*, pursuant to Rule X(f) of the 87th Sessions Rules of the Senate, the  
19 Committee on University affairs is responsible for “addressing issues of diversity concern  
20 with the assistance of the Director of Diversity and Inclusion,” in addition to a minimum of

<sup>2</sup> Ranking & Associates, Consulting. (2019). Campus Climate Assessment Project: University of Nevada, Reno. [Final Report]: <https://www.unr.edu/main/pdfs/verified-accessible/divisions-offices/president/truth/climate-study-final-report.pdf>. p. 81.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

<sup>4</sup> Id. at 287.

1 fifteen other items under its purview, making it unable to prioritize matters of diversity,  
2 equity, and inclusion to the degree warranted by their significance;<sup>5</sup>

3 *Whereas*, pursuant to the legislation defining the priorities of the 87th Session of the  
4 Associated Students of the University of Nevada, the principles of, and matter pertaining to,  
5 diversity, equity, and inclusion are directly related to the wellbeing of our campus  
6 community, and it is incumbent upon this legislative body and its coexisting branches to  
7 remain consistent and concerted in its effort to create a diverse, inclusive, and equitable  
8 association;

9 *Whereas*, No Walls: 2025 understands the future of the University of Nevada to  
10 consist of advocacy on behalf of our underrepresented student population, and the  
11 Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will serve as the institutionalization of  
12 advocacy within the Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada;<sup>6</sup>

13 *Whereas*, according to a 2016 report from the Department of Education, nearly 50%  
14 of Asian students, 36% of white students, and 17% of black and Hispanic students who are  
15 enrolled in postsecondary institutions graduate within six years;<sup>7</sup>

16 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the Associated Students that*, a Senate Committee on Diversity,  
17 Equity, and Inclusion be established as a standing committee, not to be active until the  
18 convening of the 88th Session of the Senate of the Associated Students;

19 *Be it further resolved that*, the 87th Session Rules of the Senate be amended to reflect  
20 that which is described in Addendum A.

<sup>5</sup> 87th Session Rules of the Senate: <http://de5u0yfu98nbk.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/30183501/87SenateRules.pdf>. p. 21.

<sup>6</sup> No Walls: 2025, A Student Vision for the University of Nevada: <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/nevadaasun/2015/01/No-Walls-2025-AStudentVisOnForTheUniversityOfNevadaReno.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www2.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/advancing-diversity-inclusion.pdf>

Addendum A

87TH SESSION RULES OF THE SENATE

Table of Contents

Rule X: Standing Committee Duties.....20

    a) Committee on Academics.....20

    b) Committee on Budget and Finance.....20

    c) Committee on Civic Engagement.....20

    d) Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.....20

    e) Committee on Government Operations.....20

    f) Committee on Public Affairs.....20

    g) Committee on University Affairs.....20

    h) Committee on Oversight.....21

**RULE IX: COMMITTEES**

**b) STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Senate shall elect Senators to the following standing committees:

- 1) Academics
- 2) Budget and Finance
- 3) Civic Engagement
- 4) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- 5) Government Operations
- 6) Public Affairs
- 7) University Affairs
- 8) Oversight

**RULE X: STANDING COMMITTEE DUTIES**

**a) COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS**

The Committee on Academics shall be responsible for policies regarding academic reform and University academic policy. The Committee on Academics shall be responsible for maintaining the Nevada State Undergraduate Research Journal. The Chair of the Committee on Academics shall be liaison to the Faculty Senate committee with similar jurisdiction, the office of the Provost, the Office of Admissions and Records, and the University libraries. The Committee on Academics shall work in conjunction with the career studio and all advising centers. The Committee on Academics shall act as a liaison to all academic help centers and academic resources.

**b) COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE**

The Committee on Budget and Finance shall ensure responsible expenditure of Association funds. The committee shall review finance bills, review spending practices, regularly review balance sheets of ASUN accounts and provide written reports that reflect these reviews, inspect budgets and expenses of agencies and departments, and generally shall extend to asking the Manager of the Nevada Wolf Shop to report to the committee at least once per semester about the financial and operating standing of the Wolf Shop as well as coordinating presentations to academic departments about the importance of professors submitting textbook requests to the Wolf Shop on time. The committee shall regularly inspect agreements that affect the Association financially and shall review and approve, through legislation, capital requests made by the President. The composition of the committee shall be no less than seven and no more than nine.

**c) COMMITTEE ON CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

The Committee on Civic Engagement shall be responsible for promoting civic engagement to the students, faculty, and administration of the university as well as the Reno community. The committee shall be responsible for creating and executing projects that employ students to be civically engaged. The committee shall support academic courses that endorse activism in the local and national community. The committee shall outreach to local non-profits to provide opportunities for students to serve in the community. The committee shall promote service learning through volunteerism, fostering community partnerships, and advocating for service learning within undergraduate courses in all academic colleges at the university. The committee must hold and contribute to planning the University Day of Service and Reno Education Awareness Drive. The Committee shall liaison with the Office of Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

**d) COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**

The Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall be responsible for policies concerning the Association as it relates to matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Members of the committee are expected to advocate on behalf of underrepresented groups, address student concerns within its jurisdiction, and, in addition to Senators added pursuant to Rule IX of the Rules of the Senate, will also consist of the Director of Diversity and Inclusion who shall serve as an *ex-officio*, non-voting member of the committee. In conjunction with the ASUN Department of Diversity and Inclusion, Office of the University Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Student Services' First-Generation Student Center, The Center, Every Student. Every Story., Disability Resource Center, the Hate and Bias Response Team, Veteran Services, the Office of International Students and Scholars, and any additional departments or organizations that share the committee's mission, the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall work to foster a diverse and equitable association that is inclusive of all students of the university. Senate liaisons for the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shall be provided to the aforementioned departments and organizations at the discretion of the committee, with the committee chair serving as liaison to the Faculty Senate committee with similar jurisdiction.

**d) e) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

The Committee on Government Operations shall be responsible for reviewing bills regarding the operations of the government of the Association, resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution of the Associated Students, formulating election procedures, considering amendments to the Rules of the Senate, and reviewing matters of controversy in Senate procedure.

**e) f) COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Public Affairs shall be responsible for formulating policies regarding bodies of governance at the local, state, and federal level, including the Reno City Council, the Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents, and the Nevada State Legislature. This committee shall voice student concerns regarding the Tuition and Fees of the University. The committee shall review all matters of student concern external to the University, except where another committee has direct jurisdiction. This committee shall liaison with the President's Assistant on Public and Campus Relations. The committee on Public Affairs is responsible for holding the annual Veteran's breakfast within two weeks of Veteran's Day. The Committee on Public Affairs is responsible for holding the annual Veteran's breakfast within two weeks of Veteran's Day, as well as paying tribute in honor of 9/11, with assistance from the Department of Programming. This Committee shall serve as a liaison to the Director of Campus and Public Relations.

f) **g) COMMITTEE ON UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS**

The Committee on University Affairs shall be responsible for policies concerning any campus wide departments such as, but not limited to Buildings and Grounds, Parking and Transportation, Campus Planning, Construction, and the Student Legal Services. The Committee shall also be responsible for the promotion of Senate among the Student Body, creation and distribution of materials concerning Senate, communication between Senate and the university community; addressing issues of diversity concern with the assistance of the Director of Diversity and Inclusion; policies concerning University Housing, the Greek Councils, the Residence Hall Association, the Student Union Activities Board, Recognized Student Organizations, events and Athletics, including Ticket Distribution Policies. The Committee on University Affairs shall provide a Senate liaison to different departments or organizations chosen by the committee. These liaisons will work to unify different sections on Campus. The Committee will also work with the executive board to implement campus-wide initiatives.

g) **h) COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**

The Committee on Oversight shall be responsible for evaluating the nature of Senate absences, reviewing personnel matters, and conducting investigations regarding the impeachment of Governmental Officials, in accordance with the Senate punitive powers. The Committee shall be composed of the chairpersons of the Standing and Special Committees and chaired by the Speaker of the Senate. The Speaker of the Senate shall not have voting power except when his, her, or their vote would be decisive. Those who attend conferences on behalf of ASUN will be required to present to the committee discuss the educational value of the conference and how they will use what they learned to better the Association within two scheduled oversight meetings upon arrival back from the conference. The Committee also has jurisdiction over all nominations to office within ASUN, which require the consent of the Senate, the jurisdiction of the other committees to the contrary notwithstanding. The committee shall also meet to discuss updates, business and any concerns regarding each of the standing committees. The Committee on Oversight, acting as the check on the Senate and the Executive Branch of ASUN, shall be responsible for reviewing, questioning and/or requiring updates from ASUN student officers and their respective departments

h) **i) THE COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY AND WELLNESS**

The Committee on Safety, Sustainability and Wellness shall be responsible for policies concerning campus wide departments regarding student safety and wellness, including but not limited to: the Campus Sustainability Committee, University Police, Student Health Services, Counseling Center, Campus Dining, Title IX Office, The Student Wellness Advisory Group, Pack Provisions, Student Cadets, Campus Escort, the ASUN Director of Sustainability and the ASUN

Director of Campus Wellness. The Committee shall develop relationships with mental and physical health related student organizations. The Committee shall assist and consult the Director of Sustainability in the promotion of sustainable campus initiatives, the Sustainable Nevada Initiative Fund, and events such as Public Lands Day, Earth Day, and Arbor Day. The Committee shall be responsible for legislation regarding sustainable practices on and off campus, any policy concerning student health and student safety on campus and in the community, as well as anything else that the Chair finds pertinent to the Committee. The Committee will also work with the Director of Campus Wellness to allot at least four days within the academic year for the promotion of health and wellness and resources available to students.